

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

P. O. Box 267, 201 Veterans Dr., Columbus, TX 78934

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E-mail: admin@splctx.org www.splctx.com **Pastor:** pastor.akethan@gmail.com

June 11, 2023 Contemporary 11:05 AM

Second Sunday of Pentecost

Senior Pastor	Alan Kethan	<u>Home:</u> (979)-942-9060	<u>Cell:</u> (830)-708-1200
Deacon of Word and Service			Sandye Fletcher
Youth & Family Specialist			Stephanie Polasek
Congregational Chair			Donna Maas
St. Paul Christian Learning Academy Director			Briana Bedford
Secretary			Elena Holub
Custodian			Tomasa Rosales
Parish Nurse Program Coordinator			DyAnn Lauzon

MISSION STATEMENT: Love God, Love Neighbor (Luke 10:27)

VISION STATEMENT: We will work to strengthen and grow closer in relationship to God and to one another.

- *As we enter into a sacred time and space, a friendly reminder to please set your cell phone to vibrate.*
- ***We want to welcome all of our guests today and thank you for worshipping with us. If you have any questions or would like more information regarding our services, programs, day care, or preschool programs at St. Paul, please visit our Welcome Center in the narthex immediately following our service, and an attendant will be more than happy to assist you. If this is your first time at St. Paul, we hope you will take a gift along with you. We also have a gift bag for children.***
- Hearing Assist devices are available for those who need assistance in hearing worship service better. Please see a person in the Sound Room (Usher Room) to request the use of a device during worship.

* This symbol indicates that the congregation is invited to stand physically or in spirit.

INTRODUCTION

Though Jesus was a devout Jew who practiced his faith, he was criticized for eating with tax collectors and sinners — the religiously nonobservant. Jesus criticizes the self-righteous and reminds us that mercy is to be at the heart of our religious practices. God continues to be made known in those on the margins of society, like Matthew the tax collector and the hemorrhaging

woman. As we gather each Lord’s day we receive the healing that makes us well and sends us forth to be signs of God’s mercy for the world.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SIGNING OF ATTENDANCE PADS

(Ushers will be handing out Attendance Pads during the announcements. Please be sure to sign your name and contact information.)

60 SECONDS OF STEWARDSHIP – Outreach Team

*** CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P We believe that the Bible contains instruction for us as followers of Jesus Christ to do what he asked of us. He taught the first disciples to help others to confess their sins and to proclaim to them the promise of forgiveness afterwards. So let us take a few brief moments in silence to open our hearts and minds to Jesus, to confess the things that weigh heavy on our hearts and the things we need help with so we might be more in line with what Jesus commands.

(Silence for private confession.)

P If you are truly sorry and asking God for help, here is the promise he commanded the leaders in his church to proclaim, “You are forgiven.” May this forgiveness free you and help you to live; to live in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

GOSPEL SONG: YOU ARE THE LIGHT

**We are the people of God. The sons and the daughters of love.
Forgiven, restored and redeemed. Living our lives to the praise of our King!
We are the ones who will shine His light in the darkness of night.
The hopeless, the broken, the poor; they will be hopeless and broken no more.**

CHORUS:

***You are the light, the light of the world and we shine You, Lord!
You are the light, the light of the world and we shine You, Lord!***

GOSPEL: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Jesus demonstrates God’s mercy and power, accepting the unacceptable and curing the incurable. Even the dead receive new life.

A The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter 9, verses 9-13 and 18-26.

⁹As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him. ¹⁰And as he sat at dinner in the house,

many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹²But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners." ¹⁸While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." ¹⁹And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. ²⁰Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, ²¹for she said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." ²²Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well. ²³When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, ²⁴he said, "Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. ²⁵But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. ²⁶And the report of this spread throughout that district.

GOSPEL SONG: YOU ARE THE LIGHT

BRIDGE: (Sing twice)

**We shine like stars in the universe, proclaiming the hope of our God
To the sons and the daughters in all the earth, WE SHINE YOU, LORD!**

CHORUS:

***You are the light, the light of the world and we shine You, Lord!
You are the light, the light of the world and we shine You, Lord!***

**To the lost and the broken, the hurting and hopeless, we shine You, Lord!
To the ones who are weary, the burdened and suffering, we shine You, Lord!
We shine like stars in the universe; we shine, we shine!
To the sons and the daughters in all the earth, we shine You, Lord, YEAH...**

CHORUS

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CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

*** SERMON SONG: COME TO THE TABLE**

**We all start on the outside... the outside looking in. This is where grace begins.
We were hungry, we were thirsty... with nothing left to give.
Oh, the shape that we were in!
Just when all hope seemed lost, love opened the door for us.**

CHORUS:

**He said, "Come to the table! Come join the sinners who have been redeemed.
Take your place beside the Savior. Sit down and be set free. Come to the table."**

Come meet this motley crew of misfits... these liars and these thieves.

**There's no one unwelcome here. That sin and shame that you've brought with you,
You can leave it at the door... and let mercy draw you near! CHORUS**

BRIDGE:

**To the thief and to the doubter, to the hero and the coward.
To the pris'ner and the soldier, to the young and to the older.
All who hunger, all who thirst, all the last and all the first.
All the paupers and the princes, all who've failed, You've been forgiven!
All who dream and all who suffer, all who've loved and lost another.
All the chained and all the free, all who follow, all who lead.
Anyone who's been let down, all the lost, you have been found!
All who've been labeled right or wrong, To everyone who hears this song...**

LAST CHORUS:

**Come to the table! Come join the sinners who have been redeemed.
Take your place beside the Savior. Sit down and be set free. Sit down and be set free!
Come to the table. Come to the table.
Just sit down and rest a while. Just sit down and rest a while.
Come to the table!**

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*** APOSTLES' CREED**

A With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(The congregation may be seated during the prayers.)

PRAYERS

A Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need.

A brief silence.

- A We pray, O God, for creation. Tend forests and fields and safeguard all cattle, birds, and wild animals. Preserve lakes, rivers, and oceans and send rains to water the earth. Revive lands recovering from natural disasters.

A brief silence.

- A We pray, O God, for peace in all the world, especially in war-torn areas of Ukraine and Sudan. Bring an end to wars and the destruction of lives and your creation.

A brief silence.

- A We pray, O God, for the families and friends of Barbara Farley and Herbert Zoch who passed away recently. Be with them and comfort them during this difficult time.

A brief silence.

- A We give you thanks and praise, O God, for the birth of Evan Rowe McNeely to Wes and Kesley Kethan McNeely. Bless their family as they begin a new life together.

A brief silence.

- A We pray, O God, for all those in need of healing and whose needs are diverse and known to you including:
Dr. Cecil Marburger; Edna Supak; Alma Fletcher; Peggy Geisler; Briana Bedford; those on our Prayer Team's list; and those we name in our hearts before you.

A brief silence.

- A We pray, O God, for all those battling cancer that they may know comfort and strength.
(Pause for those we are praying for.)
Susan Chandler; Heather Deviney; Jaime Sawyer; Kim Moerbe Welneck; Misti Retzer; Zelda Lanford; Michelle Thraen; Pauline Gosnell; Nina Naumann; GayLynn Willms Burk; Carl Norton; Laura Harris; Todd Foster; Cher Marino; Cindy Tanner; Joe Reck; Melinda Rodiek; Melda Coleman; Donna Culton; Nancy Hartmann; Lydia Rojas; Catherine Poppe; Larry Stolar; Vivian Fortenberry; Rick Davis; Darryl Stancik; Jerry Ordner; Michael Yancey; Al Gene Canik; Jane Venghaus Taylor; George Wright; Sandy Mosley; Charlene Tesch; Karen Bailiff; Julian Divin; Nancy Biers; Pam Potter; Charlie Hammock; Brad Bryson; Lynette Frnka; Riana Jamison; Jenna Escamilla; Margaret Ortiz; Keith Korth; Jodi Sebesta; Cathy Siglow; Paul Casinger; DeQuincy Lister; Lily Presswood; Denise Lange; Doug Mason; Dr. Tom Hancher; Joe Berry; Gracie Brune; Margaret Rogers; Leonard Kahlden; Curtis Wallin; Megan Burch; Lisa Grazier; Phyllis Behrend; Jessica Mauchlen; Donna Tiner; Libby Divin; Diane Brooks; Bob Loy; Stanley King; Monty Gillett; Dawn Foster; Edward Halcolm; Amber Smith Kutach; Louis Camacho; Melvin Schobel; Janet Greene; Sabrina Galindo; Debbie Grimes; Horst Traub; Margie Fisk; Preston Carter; Penny Miller; Carl Hahn; Megan Cain; Amanda Fuchs; Cyndi Wallace; Karen Broussard; Donna Young; Sharon Heimann; and Brenda Baker.

- A We pray, O God, for all expectant mothers, and especially for:
Montana Appelt; Dina Anton de Espinoza; Olivia Leyendecker; Daya Latiolais; Cassidy Zajicek Parks; Courtney Busselman; and Nancy Gorman that they have healthy terms and deliveries, and if not, may they find comfort and peace.

A brief silence.

- A We pray, O God, for all those who reside in care facilities and the homebound that they receive your caring and compassion. *(Pause for those we are praying for.)*
Joey Denby; Edwin Oevermann; Paul Minar, Sr.; Adrian Fritsch; Doug Hill; Robert Saunders; Coy Dell Schindler; Barbara McMath; Madeline Menke; Doris Horndt; Helen Perrard; Jane Booker; Pat Brasher; Curtis Berger; Dolores Hoelscher; Jesse Grabow; Ronnie Rogers; Joyce Dehmer; Donna Dehmer; and Rita Noska.

- A We pray, O God, for all law enforcement officers and especially for Joseph Smith; Todd Jacobs; Troy Neisner; Jacob Gorman; Nancy Gorman; Johnny Kovar; Abigail Weido; Dustin Lattimore; Bruno Flores; Zane Weido; Josh Jones; as well as Donnie Templeton and Jason Templeton who are also fire fighters. For all fire fighters, first responders, healthcare workers and 9-1-1 dispatchers, especially Brent Gorman, Sr.; Brent Gorman, Jr.; Reid Brasher; Dusty Dittmar; John Maertz; Ron Luedke; Pastor Alan Kethan; Kristi Weyand; Eric Weyand; Bradley Berger; Jon Berger; James Chollett; Edward Thraen, Jr.; Garrett Flores; Kyle Burris; Dylan Walcik; Randy Wendt; Travis Neuendorff; Brenda Henkes; Jan Willette; and Terri Neunendorff, as well as those active duty military members including Brian Anderson; Michael Graham; Bryan Kubena; Brad Bergfeld; Cody Jowers; Kyle Appelt; Montana Appelt; Douglas Neuendorff; Scott Cherniss; Kameron Page; Ryan Neisner; Anthony D'Angelo; Dalton Kapel; Kindra Dawson; William Phillips; and Kevin Gonzalez that they are protected and kept safe.

A brief silence.

- A We pray, O God, for the church throughout the world. May we all proclaim the good news of your love effectively. We ask, especially, that you would bless the ministry of our sister congregations Cristo Rey and Iglesia Cristiana Camino de Santidad in Peru, all Missionaries, especially St. Paul's supported missionary, Dina Anton de Espinoza, and our companion synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic.

A brief silence.

- A Receive our prayers and answer us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

*** PEACE**

- P As Jesus shared peace, let us also share His peace with one another. *(Share the "Peace of the Lord" with your neighbors.)*

(We will be collecting offerings before and after worship each week. This includes Power of One dollars.)

OFFERING and POWER OF ONE

“Power of One” is a ministry sponsored by your Stewardship Team. We are asking each and every one of our members to give \$1.00 above what your normal giving would be. We are asking each member to place this \$1.00 bill or change in the offering plate each week. The team is also inviting all children to participate to develop the habit of giving as part of their worship experience. Parents, a penny, nickel, dime, quarter, or dollar bill, any of these will do to help your children develop a habit of giving. These “Power of One” dollars will be used to support local ministries and ministries abroad. The purpose of this ministry is to demonstrate that something as small as one dollar can be used to make a difference in the lives of others.

*** OFFERING PRAYER**

P God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us and the gifts you gave us to share, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

*** REMEMBERING JESUS' WORDS, PROMISES, AND COMMANDS**

*** LORD'S PRAYER**

P Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to sing.

**C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

*** INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P All people are called to Christ's table. Come, and receive all that God offers.

C Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION (Continuous with Individual Cups)

{Distribution will be continuous. All are welcome for communion. Please come down the center aisle starting from the front. Follow directions of the ushers, coming up one side at a time. Pastor will hand you the bread. If you wish to have a gluten-free wafer, please tell Pastor “Gluten-free, please.” Afterward, you will choose either wine or white grape juice from the individual cups in the tray – white grape juice in the center with wine surrounding. Place the empty cups in the baskets located off to the side. Although communion is continuous, you are welcome to kneel at the rail in prayer after receiving communion. Please return to your seat by the side aisles.}

*** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

*** BLESSING**

P May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord look upon you with His favor and grant you His peace. In the name of the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

*** CLOSING SONG: LESS LIKE ME**

**Oh, I have days I lose the fight; Try my best but just don't get it right.
Where I talk a talk that I don't walk, and miss the moments right before my eyes.**

PRE-CHORUS:

**Somebody with a hurt that I could have helped,
Somebody with a hand that I could have held.
When I just can't see past myself, Lord, help me be. . .**

CHORUS:

***A little more like mercy, a little more like grace.
A little more like kindness, goodness, love and faith.
A little more like patience, a little more like peace.
A little more like Jesus, a little less like me. (2nd TIME TO BRIDGE)***

**Yeah, there's no denying I have changed. I've been saved from who I used to be.
But even at my best, I must confess, I still need help to see the way You see.**

REPEAT PRE-CHORUS and CHORUS

BRIDGE:

**Oh, to feed the beggar on the street, love to be Your hands and feet;
Freely give what I receive, Lord, help me be!
I want to put You first above all else. Love my neighbor as myself;
In the moments no one sees, Lord, help me be. . . One, two, three!**

LAST CHORUS:

**A little more like mercy, a little more like grace.
A little more like kindness, goodness, love and faith.
A little more like patience, a little more like peace.
A little more like Jesus, Oh, a little less like me.
A little more I'm living everything I preach.
A little more like Jesus, a little less like me.
Oh, a little less like me.**

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*** DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Share Christ's good news. **C Thanks be to God, and we will.**
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USHERS: John, Terri & Chase Brasher
LAY READER: Terri Brasher
STREAMING: Kay Wesson
ALTAR GUILD: Loraine Gast

ACOLYTE: Berkley Anderson
POWER POINT: Peggy Geisler

WELCOME: “The earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord” (Psalm 33:5, ESV). Welcome to worship. Let us together praise God!

ALTAR WALL FLOWERS are placed by Ken & Kay Wesson in loving memory of Kay's father Weldon Chollett whose birthday is June 8.

We extend our Christian sympathy to Tracy Baker and her family for the loss of her aunt Barbara Farley who passed away this past week. May God comfort them during their time of loss.

We extend our Christian sympathy also to Teresa Supak Zoch and her family for the loss of her father-in-law Herbert Zoch who passed away recently. May God comfort them during their time of loss.

Congratulations!! Pastor Alan and Debbie Kethan are pleased to announce the arrival of their new grandson **Evan Rowe McNeely**. Evan Rowe was born Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 8:06 AM (Eastern Time) to Wes and Kelsey (Kethan) McNeely. He weighed 10 lbs. 1 oz. and was 21 inches long. Welcoming him home are big brother Ren and big sister Lena.

COLLECTION OF OFFERING: Offering for the worship services is collected before and after worship. Offering bowls are placed in the back entrance and inside the side sanctuary door for you to place your offering in. This includes “Power of One” dollars.

Amount needed for average weekly budgeted expenses: \$8,405.00

Attendance: June 3 & 4, 2023 – 161 **Contributions:** June 3 & 4 – \$8,047.01
Power of One: June 3 & 4, 2023 – \$34.00 **Building Fund:** June 3 & 4 – \$253.23

Thank you to those who contributed to last week's offerings. Loving God/Loving Neighbor.

ATTENTION: *Names on the prayer list in the bulletin will be printed for 2 weeks. After 2 weeks, the names will be removed from the bulletin unless the church office has been notified to keep them.*

► **Children's Activity Bags** are available for use by our young members and guests! You can find them on the coat hooks in the coat area of the narthex. After worship, **please place the used activity bags and their contents in the receptacle in the narthex.** Thank you! ☺

Attention Graduating Seniors and Current College Students: This is a reminder that if you are planning to or are currently pursuing a degree in education *or* nursing, you are encouraged to apply for the Frank & Ann Derr Scholarship here at St. Paul. For an application, please see Ms. Stephanie or stop by the church office. Complete your application and return it to the church office as soon as possible.

NOTICE!! Summer office hours for Stephanie Polasek are Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM-1:00 PM. Please make note of this change for the summer when scheduling any office appointments.

**** Colorado County Senior Connections ** –**

A place for Seniors, 65 years and older, to socialize with others.

Beginning Wednesday, June 7, 2023, the group will meet at the Stafford Opera House – Columbus in the Buddy Rau Room from **10:00 AM-1:00 PM** the **1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month**. Lunch will be provided. Various activities will include: Card games/board games; Bingo; Movies; Educational Speakers; Field trips; and Social gathering time!

Preschool & Kinder Water Day!! St. Paul BLAST students entering preschool and kindergarten this fall are invited to come hang out with old friends and meet new friends **TODAY from 12:30-2:00 PM** on the **St. Paul lawn**. Students will get to play on the water slides and have a pizza lunch. Come join the fun!


A DAY AT SPLASHWAY: St. Paul youth entering 4-5th grades are invited to come learn about being good stewards of creation and enjoying a day at Splashway on **Tuesday, June 13, 2023**. We will leave the church parking lot at 10:30 AM and will return around 5:00 PM. Cost per student is \$25/church member or \$45/non-member. Students are to bring a sack lunch or money to purchase lunch there. Drinks will be provided. **RSVP by contacting Stephanie at 979-732-1858.**




◆ **Our Peru Mission Trip Team's drive-thru dinner fundraiser is Tuesday, June 13, 2023** at The Lighthouse from **5:00-7:00 PM**. Don't forget to pick up your meal!!

**** Senior Explorers!! Get Ready for Some Blue Marlin Fishing in Cabo, San Lucas! ****

Join us **Wednesday, June 21, 2023** (this is a date change) for the movie "Blue Miracle" in **The Lighthouse at 10:30 AM**. A **lunch** will be served following the movie. The movie is about Papa Omar and his kids that partner with a washed-up boat captain for a chance to win a lucrative fishing competition to save his orphanage. For questions, please contact Kevin Page at 979-732-0845. Please sign up in the narthex (foyer) by Sunday, June 18, 2023.

 **God's Gals** will meet **Sunday, June 25, 2023** at **Hound Song Brewing Company** in Columbus at **6:00 PM**. All women of St. Paul are invited for food, fellowship and laughter! Guests are always welcome!! Contact Terri Brasher at 979-732-1127 for more details.

 **Senior Explorers are going on a cruise!** We will **depart from St. Paul at 7:30 AM** on Thursday, July 6. We will board the ship before 10:00 AM for a 90-minute Sam Houston Boat Tour. It will be a narrated, educational ride along the Houston Ship Channel. There is an outside deck and inside air conditioned area. Free tour and ride. One free beverage provided mid-cruise. Walkers are OK. **PHOTO ID REQUIRED.** You may bring water, but you cannot bring any other food or drink on board. We will stop for lunch on the way home and expect to be home about 3:00 PM. **We currently have 24 spots reserved.** Please sign up in the narthex (foyer) by Sunday, July 2, 2023. Please call Kevin Page at 979-732-0845 with any questions.

► **Escape Room Trip:** St. Paul youth entering grades 6, 7 & 8 are invited to test their skills as a group at Armadillo Escape Room Adventures in Katy on **Monday, July 3, 2023**. We will **leave the church at 10:00 AM**. After our Escape Room experience we will have lunch and devotion before returning home. Come join us in learning how, even though we are different, we all have gifts and are a part of one body, the Body of Christ. **Cost per student is \$25.** RSVP by Monday, June 26, 2023 by contacting Stephanie at 979-732-1858.

Stellar VBS!! Mark your calendars for "Stellar" VBS! Join us at Vacation Bible School **July 10-14, 2023** as kids go on a cosmic quest and have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world! A meal will be served 5:30-6:00 PM, and VBS will be held 6:00-8:30 PM. VBS is open to children in

preschool up to students who have completed 5th grade. Registration is free, however, t-shirts will be available to purchase for \$8 each. *Space is limited so register early!* Parents may register their students online by visiting vbspro.events/p/spfu2023. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858 or by email at stephaniepolasek@yahoo.com.

Be a Vacation Bible School Volunteer!! VBS is a wonderful way to connect with the youth and to share how God has worked in your life. Sharing your love for Christ with the younger generation can be a humbling and rewarding experience and can impact the youth in so many ways. Last year we hit our capacity of 100 students! This year we have increased our capacity to 125 students, but, in order to accomplish this, more volunteers are needed. We all have gifts to give no matter what age, and we invite you to join our team. You may register online by visiting vbspro.events/p/spfu2023. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858 or by email at stephaniepolasek@yahoo.com.

● **VBS FOOD DONATIONS:** To help defray the cost, we are asking for donations to help with the meals served each evening before Vacation Bible School. We served about 200 kids and volunteers *each night* of VBS last year. If you would like to help, you can either give a **monetary donation or** donate **specific food items**. For monetary donations, an envelope will be on the table in the narthex (foyer) that can be placed in the offering bowl. If you wish to donate specific food items, just pull a slip off the board and return it with the donation on the date specified to the St. Paul Lighthouse. If you have any questions, please contact Loraine Gast at 979-732-1296. Each donation is and will be greatly appreciated. Thank you!



Newman's Castle for 2nd & 3rd Graders! St. Paul students entering 2nd and 3rd grade this fall are invited to experience Newman's Castle in Bellville, Texas. On **Tuesday, July 25, 2023** we will leave the church parking lot at **9:30 AM** and return by **2:30 PM**. After exploring the castle and catapult, students will be served lunch and hear the story of Queen Esther. Please RSVP to Stephanie by Monday, July 17, 2023 at 979-732-1858.

♣ **Day Camp at Lutherhill!** Youth completing K-5th grade are invited to experience a week at camp without the over-night stay during the week of **July 30-August 4, 2023**. Camp starts each day at 8:00 AM and will end at 5:15 PM. Stephanie Polasek will shuttle youth each day to and from camp. We will leave the church at 7:20 AM and will return at 5:50 PM. **Cost is \$195 for the week.** Register online at lutherhill.org and then contact Stephanie at 979-732-1858 for transportation. It's always a great time for the kiddos!

♥ **Grief Support Group:** Are you experiencing grief from the loss of a loved one, loss of a job, loss of friend who has moved? The Grief Support Group is a place to share and discuss these issues with other individuals. The group meets the **third Thursday of each month from**

5:30-6:30 PM in the church library. For questions or more information, contact Peggy Geisler at 979-732-0350.

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Today (Sun., June 11) – 12:30 PM – Preschool Water Day (church lawn)
Mon., June 12 – 10:00 AM – Staff Meeting
6:00 PM – Women of JOY Bible Study (Hackfeld Family Room)
Tues., June 13 – 9:00 AM-12:00 PM – Quilters (Lighthouse)
10:30 AM-5:00 PM – 4th-6th Graders to Splashway
10:30 AM – Pastor Alan to TLC
12:00 PM – Noon Bible Study (library)
5:00-7:00 PM – Peru Team Drive-Thru Fundraiser (Lighthouse)
5:30 PM – Stewardship Team (library)
Wed., June 14 – 9:00 AM – CLA Chapel
10:00 AM – Deacon Sandye to Columbus Oaks
2:00 PM – Deacon Sandye to The Oaks
Thurs., June 15 – 1:00-2:30 PM – Summer Craft Camp (Lighthouse)
5:30 PM – Grief Support Group (library)
6:00 PM – Peru Team Meeting & Zoom Baby Shower (Lighthouse)
Fri., June 16 – 10:30 AM – Adult Bible Study (library)
6:00 PM – Guthmann/Guentert Wedding Rehearsal (sanctuary)
Sat., June 17 – 2:00 PM – Guthmann/Guentert Wedding (sanctuary)
7:00 PM – Holy Communion Worship
June 18-23 – Youth to Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp, Colorado
Next Sun., June 18 – 9:00 AM – Holy Communion Worship
10:00 AM – Adult Sunday School
11:05 AM – Holy Communion Contemporary Worship

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Sunday, June 11, 2023 Barnabas, Apostle

Barnabas was not numbered among the twelve apostles, but the book of Acts gives him that title. After Paul was converted to Christianity, Barnabas welcomed him to Jerusalem, and later the two traveled together on missionary journeys

Wednesday, June 14, 2023 Basil the Great, Bishop of Caesarea, died 379;

Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa, died around 385; Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishop of

Constantinople, died around 389; Macrina, teacher, died around 379

The Cappadocian fathers, as the three men in this group are known, explored the mystery of the Holy Trinity. Basil's monastic rule forms the basis for Eastern monastic life. Gregory of Nazianzus defended orthodox Christianity in Constantinople. Gregory of Nyssa, Basil's younger brother, wrote on the spiritual life. Macrina, older sister of Basil and Gregory of Nyssa, was the leader of a community dedicated to asceticism, meditation, and prayer.

Saturday, June 17, 2023 Emanuel Nine, martyrs, died 2015

On June 17, 2015, Clementa C. Pinckney, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, DePayne Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Sanders, Daniel Lee Simmons, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, and Myra Thompson were murdered by a self-professed white supremacist while they were gathered for Bible study and prayer at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church (often referred to as Mother Emanuel) in Charleston, South Carolina. Pastors Pinckney and Simmons were both graduates of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. A resolution to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance for the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine was adopted by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on August 8, 2019. Congregations of the ELCA are encouraged reaffirm their commitment to repenting of the sins of racism and white supremacy which continue to plague this church, to venerate the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine, and to mark this day of penitence with study and prayer.

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OTHER READINGS: Hosea 5:15--6:6

A Our first reading is from Hosea, chapter 5, verse 15 to chapter 6, verse 6.

Because the people have trusted in military powers and not God, God decides to withdraw from the scene until Israel acknowledges its guilt and seeks God's face. The response of the people does not acknowledge this guilt and is as fickle as fog or dew burned away quickly by the sun. God desires loyalty rather than words or meaningless deeds.

The reading begins:

Chapter 5:

¹⁵I will return again to my place until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face. In their distress they will beg my favor:

Chapter 6:

¹⁴Come, let us return to the LORD; for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us; he has struck down, and he will bind us up. ²After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. ³Let us know, let us press on to know the LORD; his appearing is as sure as the dawn; he will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth." ⁴What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. ⁵Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets, I have killed them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. ⁶For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

PSALM: Psalm 50:7-15

⁷Listen, my people, and I will speak: Israel, I will bear witness against you; for I am God, your God. ⁸I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices; your burnt offerings are always before me. ⁹I will not accept a calf from your stalls, nor goats from your pens; ¹⁰for all the wild animals of the forest are mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. ¹¹I know every bird of the mountains, and the creatures of the fields are mine. ¹²If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the whole world is mine and all that is in it. ¹³Do you think I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats?

¹⁴Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving and make good your vows to the Most High. ¹⁵Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall honor me.

OTHER READINGS: Romans 4:13-25

Paul presents Abraham as a living model of right relationships. For Abraham and for us, a right relationship with God involves trusting that God's promises will be fulfilled because God makes the dead alive and calls into existence what otherwise does not exist.

The reading begins:

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") — in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

SERVICE OVERVIEW: JESUS BRINGS LIFE TO ALL

Summer brings sunny warmth, growing crops, and the promise of harvest: images of the Holy Spirit's presence and activity in our lives, the church, and the world. There is a reason these weeks of summer coincide with the beginning of the Pentecost season. God's presence is described as the dawn, as a gentle shower, as light. In our life together as a community of faith, what needs light, warmth, and watering to grow and flourish? How might we be attentive to others' needs to receive this nourishment through God's words of life and holy supper?

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:

Today we hear the call to follow Jesus. Jesus not only preaches strict obedience to an intensified law, he also eats with sinners - thus himself breaking the law. Welcome to worship! Join Christ at the table even if you have not always built your house upon Him. May your faith make you well!

Today's gospel is a rich one, involving three distinct narrative movements: the call of Matthew, the raising of a synagogue leader's daughter, and the healing of a woman with hemorrhages while a group of religious folks express their disdain for Jesus' inclusive table practices. He dines

with "tax collectors and sinners," expanding his circle of welcome far beyond the bounds of what was culturally expected or acceptable. This moment presents an opportunity for you to think about your own practices of hospitality. Are your dinner guests primarily those who look and think just like you do? Do your social gatherings or social media mirror the broad and inclusive welcome of Jesus? What are the equivalent of "tax collectors and sinners" in your world? What is a boundary for you that makes you withhold your own practice of hospitality?

The gospel story this week is all about bodies: the body of Jesus, seated at table with "sinners," the body of the synagogue leader's daughter, the body of a woman suffering from hemorrhages and in need of healing. These stories remind us that Jesus was not merely interested in the liberation of people's minds and spirits, but that he was deeply committed to the liberation of real people and their real bodies. We should not only treat ourselves as temples of the holy God, but also cherish each person's body as a quality of Christian community.

As Jesus dines with Matthew, a tax collector. People question his actions as he teaches by example. A Pharisee is desperate for Jesus to resurrect his daughter who has died, and is interrupted on his way by a woman who is in pain and believes Jesus can heal her. Just like the story of Pentecost, so much is happening all at once! Sometimes the needs we see around us can be overwhelming. We may feel as if we are under a great weight with all the needs around us. Remember - every little bit helps. Each small action can lead to another small action, which can create a series of small actions that all add up greatly. What small action can you make this week? Think about the difference that one small action can create in the life of another person.

KID STUDY:

Jesus asks a tax collector named Matthew to be his disciple. Tax collectors were known for being greedy. They cheated people out of their money and nobody liked them. When Jesus went to Matthew's house for dinner with a lot of other people that were considered "bad," the religious leaders got mad. But Jesus came for everyone. Jesus taught that healthy people don't need a doctor, but sick people do. He made a point to include unlikable people in his life. In Jesus's view, there is no such thing as an outcast. Everyone is welcome. Do you know someone you consider to be an outcast? Ask Jesus to help you show that person the same kind of welcome he showed to Matthew and his friends... and also to you!

INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION:

Today the readings point to the mystery of holiness as a mystery of life-giving and love-sharing power. Such power begins and ends with life and love shared. This mystery is one the disciples of Christ are invited into, for he gives over his power to heal, to enlighten, and to love. That ideal of Christ's power, the power to care, to share, and to heal, has not been the power that humans have used through history. Power over others rather than power for others has been more typical, from personal relationships to those of more global proportions. Today we are called to receive again the power that is given to all disciples. This day we are called to be co-creators with Christ of a world where Christ's power continues to heal, to affirm, to encourage, to empower others. In giving his gift of reconciliation, we receive more of that gift, for Christ's table assures those who believe that they shall share his power to proclaim and manifest God's

kingdom. — Shawn Madigan, CSJ [Shawn Madigan, CSJ, in *Homilies for the Christian People*, 112-113.]

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Next Week's Theme (June 17 & 18): Harvest is plentiful, laborers are few

Next Week's Scriptures (June 17 & 18):

First Reading: Exodus 19:2-8a

“The covenant with Israel at Sinai.”

Psalm: Psalm 100

“We are God's people and the sheep of God's pasture.” (Ps. 100:3)

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-8

“While we were sinners, Christ died for us.”

Gospel: Matthew 9:35—10:8 [9-23]

“The sending of the Twelve.”